Equal Rights

VOL. XV, No. 2
FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 16, 1929

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Mrs. Ernesto Nelson, representative from Argentina on the Inter-American Commission of Women (left), and Doris Stevens, chairman of the Commission (right), at the Headquarters of the National Woman's Party. Mrs. Nelson is a member of the Argentine group of educators visiting the United States under the auspices of the Argentine-American Cultural Institute.

Equal Rights

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of the
National Woman's Party
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Washington, D. C.
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Published Weekly
at 19 West Chase Street
Baltimore, Md.
Phone, Vernon 3279

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Entered as second-class matter at Postoffice, Baltimore, Md., under Act March 3, 1879.

Subscription, $2.00 a Year
Foreign Subscription, $2.50

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY
The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT
"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."
[Senate Joint Resolution Number 64.]
Introduced in the Senate, January 4, 1928, by Senator Charles E. Curtis, Kansas.
Introduced in the House, May 18, 1928, by Representative Frederick W. Magrady, Pennsylvania.

Failure Is Impossible

GREAT national holidays such as Christmas, the Fourth of July or Washington's Birthday, have each a significance of their own which interprets to the popular mind an enduring truth with regard to human existence.

Christmas interprets childhood in terms of love and tolerance and happy memories; the Fourth of July interprets patriotism; Washington's Birthday stimulates that latent fibre existent in all of us which fully developed makes a hero.

The fifteenth of February, Susan B. Anthony's birthday, is not yet a national holiday, but we predict that eventually it will be so honored. This because Miss Anthony's birth was of such extraordinary significance to the human family. Miss Anthony stood not only for the principle of Equal Rights as between men and women, which in itself alone is a vital principle of justice, but in addition she typified the spirit that makes progress by human beings feasible.

With her lips she enunciated the challenge that right in any avenue of life must forever make to wrong: Failure is impossible! And her life was the supreme vindication of this challenge.

Every girl child that is born into the world finds today a richer life than she would have found had that baby of one hundred and nine years ago never come upon the planet.

Failure is impossible, when right and wrong are at death grips with one another in any avenue of human existence. Remember it: live your life according to this phrophesy, and when you die, as we all must die, soon or late as it happens, the world will be richer because you too came to live upon this planet.

Back to the Garden of Eden

WE RATHER wonder if anything went wrong with Mr. St. John Ervine's breakfast on February 1 or whether he slept badly the night before he made his chivalrous little speech on "The Theatre and Its Future" in Community Church, New York City. Certainly something had upset the poor man, for he didn't talk at all like the "well-known British author and dramatic critic" that he is, but resembled instead some testy English gentleman subjected to an overdone mutton chop or a two-minute instead of a three-minute egg.

"Women have ruined the theatre," he complained, "as they have ruined everything they have gone into. They like pretty, pretty things, and musical comedy is the acme of their taste. We thus see that the modern theatre is made for feminine taste which craves the light comic, while the classic theatre caters to masculine taste, which thrives on the tragic."

Mr. Ervine insisted that women, being the "less intelligent," had always brought about the ruin of those institutions which succumbed to their conquest. The fact that there were hundreds of actors and actresses of rare excellence who could find no employment in the modern theatre, he declared, was due to this female dominance in dictating the taste of the stage.

"Women know nothing about acting," Mr. Ervine went on. "That is why the tragedy is out of grace in modern acting and there are no geniuses among American playwrights."

We shudder to think what the divine Sarah would have said to Mr. Ervine had she heard him utter these words, for she is reputed to have not minced phrases when critics became jaundiced. And Duse, too, for, of course, she, being a woman, knew nothing about tragic acting.

The only thing we can't quite comprehend is why men, understanding acting so well and having such excellent taste, do not follow the tradition of Mr. Shakespeare and put on plays all by themselves.

Surely there are enough men in New York to fill all the rôles and all the theatres, if only Mr. Ervine can intrigue their interest. Since most of the managers and a large number of the playwrights are men, we cannot for the life of us see why Mr. Ervine puts the blame on the women. Unless perhaps the men have taken their tragic taste to the movies or the bleachers in season and cannot be lured back even by the art of Mr. Ervine.

Too bad. First there was Adam and then Buddha, and now Mr. Ervine, all predicting ruin because of women. Being Feminists we decline the honor. Adam didn't have to eat the apple in the beginning, and neither do Mr. Ervine and the managers have to look for their receipts exclusively from women.

Woman's Party Pays Tribute to Susan B. Anthony

MEMBERS of the National Woman's Party paid a tribute to Susan B. Anthony, founder of the American Equal Rights movement, on the one hundred ninth anniversary of her birth on February 15, when a delegation from the National Council and other members of the Woman's Party laid a wreath on the statue of the Pioneers in the crypt of the Capital. A similar tribute was paid to Lucretia Mott on the anniversary of her birth January 3.

Bertha W. Fowler, member of the National Council and chairman of the Colorado State Branch, wrote the following letter to Mabel Vernon, national executive secretary, in anticipation of the occasion:

"I much regret that I can not be in Washington on the 14th and 15th insts.—especially for the observance of Miss Anthony's birthday.

"I recall her vividly in Westminster Abbey when a Bishop (whose wife was a good suffragist) undertook to wind up a magnificent international meeting of women by timidly entreating us to be 'feminine' and 'womanly' and everything else that was mawkish. I turned to Miss Anthony, regretting that we could not have her in the pulpit for a few minutes to set things again in their proper shape, when with supreme tolerance she replied, 'Oh, he *means* well!'"

The National Council held its regular monthly meeting at National Headquarters on Thursday afternoon, February 14.

Maud Younger, congressional chairman, entertained at dinner for National Council members at her home that evening.

Argentine Educator Speaks at Headquarters

MRS. ERNESTO NELSON, representative from Argentina on the Inter-American Commission of Women, was the guest of honor at a reception given by the National Woman's Party at National Headquarters on the afternoon of February 7. Mrs. Nelson is a member of the Argentine group of educators visiting the United States under the auspices of the Argentine American Cultural Institute. She is well known in Argentina as an author of text books.

In discussing the status of women in Argentina Mrs. Nelson said that although the women of her country are somewhat conservative, the modern woman shows a tendency to look for new fields of activity outside the home. She is admitted to all careers open to man, and, according to Mrs. Nelson, the last census in Argentina showed that 30 per cent. of the total number of professional people in Argentina are women.

The increasing number of women employed in factories is bringing up the question of industrial equality. At the present time the so-called protective laws are in force.

In some respects Mrs. Nelson reports a legal status for women in advance of that in the United States. All single, widowed, or divorced women older than 22 years old, enjoy the same civil rights in Argentina as men.

Although the women of Argentina do not have the suffrage, Mrs. Nelson predicts that "the day is perhaps not distant when the Argentine woman will see clearly the need to exercise the vote as a means of social and economic protection."

Doris Stevens pointed out the immediate aims of the Inter-American Commission of Women, of which she is chairman. She stressed the fact that the Inter-American Commission of women was created at a most propitious time, when for the first time in history, a world conference to codify international law is to assemble at The Hague. A world law affecting the international status of women will be proposed at this meeting. This proposed law will concern the nationality of married women and their children.

"The Commission hopes to propose a model law," said Miss Stevens, "which we should like to see supported by the men and women of the Americas and adopted by the world. This will be our first gift to international law since the Commission was formed."

The meeting unanimously adopted a resolution, proposed by Burnita Shelton Matthews, chairman of the Lawyers' Council of the Woman's Party, calling upon the jurists of the world to propose a world law embodying the principle that marriage shall not affect the nationality of any person, man or woman.

Dr. Ernesto Nelson, prominent educator in Argentina and director of the tour, briefly expressed his opinion that man's obvious inability to run the world made evident the necessity of the participation of women in all public affairs.

Laura Berrien, member of the National Council of the National Woman's Party, presided at the meeting.

Receiving with honor guests were Mrs. Harvey Wiley of Washington, Isabel K. Macdermott of the Pan-American Union, and Mme. Juan V. Ramirez, wife of the secretary of the Paraguayan Embassy.

Mrs. Richard Wainwright and Lucia Hanna Hadley, both of Washington, presided at the tea tables.

MRS. NELSON said in part:

"The woman's movement in Argentina is not the result of a revolution, but the natural outcome of an evolution in the ideas and needs of the movement.

"In Argentina woman is admitted to all careers open to man and she prepares herself in high schools and colleges, the former being generally devoted to her sex, as co-education is not very popular in the upper grades of education.

"She covers 80 per cent. of the teaching force in our public schools, conquering, after the primary, the secondary and higher fields.

"Among professional studies she prefers medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, and education. She has made some attempts in chemistry, engineering, architecture, mathematics, and natural science.

"According to our last census which was, however, taken before the war, 30 per cent. of the total number of professional people in Argentina are women.

"With less literacy, women share with men the ordinary positions in public and private offices, and as it is the case everywhere, the factory is hiring women of the poorer classes, taking them from domestic service.

"All single, widowed, or divorced women older than 22, enjoy in Argentina the same civil rights as men. When married, if she is also older than 22, the woman of Argentina can exercise her profession, use her salary, join commercial associations, administer and sell all properties she possessed before marriage or may have inherited while married. She also administers her husband's property when the latter is in jail or is unable to take care of himself. Her property can never be used to pay her husband's debts.

"A woman of foreign birth does not lose her nationality when married to an Argentine, but she can become an Argentine citizen in the same way as the man.

"We do not have divorce, but separation of bodies and properties; however, there are several projects of divorce law at the Congress.

"Up to the present, women are not moved by political interest. Occasional propaganda has caused a number of legislators to prepare projects of bills granting women the same political rights men possess, and two States have passed those concerning municipal affairs. Since 1919 a so-called Feministic Party is trying to elect a woman representative to Congress through men's votes, but the votes cast, although larger and larger in succeeding years, have not been enough to secure the end sought.

"The day is perhaps not distant when the Argentine woman will see clearly the need to exercise the vote as a means of

social and economic protection. I must emphasize this fact by saying that 48 percent, of all Argentine real estate owners are Argentine women.

"Although she is a little conservative, the modern woman shows a tendency to look for new fields of activity outside the home."

MISS STEVENS, outlining the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women, on which both she and Mrs. Nelson are representatives of their respective governments, said:

"The creation of the Inter-American Commission of Women marks an epoch in the movement of women in this hemisphere towards greater equality between men and women.

"It is the dawn of women's entry into international action in the New World. No one can predict at this moment what far-reaching benefits will result to women themselves and to the stability of international relations. But women are deeply moved by this new hope and this new solemn responsibility in the international field.

"For the first time in history, American women have been entrusted by the American Governments to study and recommend improvements in their own international status. This fact bears witness to the new trust which has been placed in the hands of women. And we intend to do our utmost, with the help of all eager men and women, to propose measures which will raise our status and cement a closer union among the peoples of this hemisphere. And no one can work for greater liberty in one area without quickening the hearts and minds of lovers of liberty everywhere. Our work will not lie within a narrow circle. Our labors will be heard and known throughout the world.

"This new trust, this new power, comes to women at a most propitious moment. It comes to us when, for the first time in history, a world conference to codify international law is to assemble at The Hague. The whole civilized world will meet there to write new rules to govern international relations of mankind and womankind. At this first meeting, a world law affecting the international status of women will be proposed by jurists of the world. This proposal concerns the nationality of married women and their children. It is for women a golden opportunity. We enter the field of international action just in time to become a medium through which the women of this hemisphere may make known what they think ought to be done about their own nationality.

"The Commission hopes to propose a model law which we should like to see supported by the men and women of the Americas and adopted by the world. This will be our first gift to international law since the Commission was formed. Our gift will not be refused if all of you support our demand that marriage shall not affect nationality, whether the person be woman or man.

"There is another reason why this new power comes to women at a particularly propitious moment. All sensitive people are aware that there are international dangers about us. Keen trade rivalries, fears, distrusts, social disturbances of various sorts, beset the world. Our work—idealistic as it is and pure in heart—can only serve, if successful and approved, as a beautiful and wholesome manifestation of how nations can work together for that fine, great, and enduring principle—liberty—rather than to work in antagonism for the transitory, impermanent, and perishable advantages of political and commercial supremacy.

"The best men of this hemisphere have worked together to extend and to safeguard the liberties of all their fellow-beings. The women of this hemisphere are now entering upon a similar endeavor.

"We are amateurs in the international field. We shall stumble and sometimes behave awkwardly, as amateurs do. But we want your cheers, not only when we return to you with the shining light of victory in our eyes. We want more perhaps—your indulgent understanding when we come back to you borne on our shields, so to speak, in temporary defeat. For, of course, there can be no permanent defeat in our adventure.

"We mean to make this hemisphere a bright and radiant example of how desirable and how beautiful is the state of society where men and women are peers, comrades, equals.

"The right of every person in the community to freedom—and the dignity and self-respect which attend freedom — has always been the aim of the most civilized leaders and peoples throughout all time. And so in our humble way, the Inter-American Commission of Women will take its place on the side of civilizing tasks."

WOMEN in the Argentine group visiting the United States under the auspices of the Argentine American Cultural Institute are, in addition to Mrs. Nelson:

Dr. Elvira V. Lopez, teacher at a normal school and girls' high school, and author of a work on pedagogy; Estela V. Semino, teacher at a normal school and girls' high school; Helma G. Rojo, teacher of English at one of the largest boys' high schools; Josefina A. Molinelli, teacher of English at the Normal School of Modern Languages and the National Institute for Secondary Teachers; Lidia Abeledo, Sara Justo, and Elena M. Abeledo, primary school teachers; Alicia Nelson; and Victoria Gucovsky, teacher of history at girls' high school.

Great Feminist Meeting in Matanzas

THE newspaper *El Mundo* gives an account of a meeting that took place in Matanzas, Cuba, on January 13. A delegation from Havana headed by Señora Maria Montalvo de Soto Navarro of the Alianza Nacional Feminista was received by a Committee of prominent women including Mrs. Garrido de Dihigo. The event took place in the Theatre "Sauto" which was crowded to full capacity. The President of the Cuban Republic requested, through Dr. Viriato Gutierrez, the Governor of the Province to give all kinds of facilities to these distinguished ladies for their success in the struggle they are carrying on to obtain the equalization of political and civil rights.

The meeting was presided over by the Governor of the Province, Dr. Juan Gronlier, who spoke enthusiastically of the Feminists ideals and particularly of the high purpose of the Alianza Nacional Feminista, which organization he said, showed the great capacity of the Cuban woman. He further declared that this was an hour of glory and satisfaction for the province of Matanzas, for supporting the doctrines advocated by the Alliance, which proves once more the success obtained in Cuba under the presidency of General Machado whose desire is to do justice where justice is due. He spoke of the approval which these social movements of progress and high ideals found there and he ended by saying that the people of Matanzas were ready to welcome the triumph of the Cuban woman's cause.

A number of women visitors followed the Governor, among them Señora Maria Montalvo de Soto Navarro who said: "Our Alliance is more than pleased by the beautiful gesture of the Matanzas women who have imbued the high ideals we stand for on behalf of the women of this country.

"We bring," she said, "cordial and expressive greetings to the people of Matanzas and to you sisters in a common cause the stimulus and encouragement in the crusade for justice embracing the entire island. The moment of reaction is at hand. Inactivity in this hour would be shameful. We are not going to compete with man. Such is not our purpose. We do not desire to displace him in intervening in the complicated problems of national politics. The Cuban woman only wishes to be his companion and the capable trainer of his sons for the high civic virtues which she cannot practice today on account of absurd laws."

Señora Pilar Jorge de Tella had then the floor and made a good speech about

the efforts of the Santa Clara women and now those of Matanzas to complete the work initiated at Havana. She ended beautifully with this paragraph: "Women nothing but women. In asking for legal equality and for the vote we wish to leave on record that we do not do so to imitate the men, but as women, as human beings who do not have to apologize for their womanhood or hide their feminine qualities: gentle ways, tenderness, inborn kindness, romantic emotion." The preceding speaker was followed by Señora Celia Sarra de Averhoff, the Marchioness of Riedra, Señora Hortensia Lamar and Ofelia Dominguez and the meeting was closed by speeches from Señors Ponte Dominguez and Porfirio Andrew.

The Program of Feminists

An Interview with Mme. Maria Montalvo de Soto Navarro, President of the Alianza Nacional Feminista

(*From an article which appeared in the Diario de la Marina, Havana, Cuba*)

In your judgment what will be the minimum program of the Alliance?

I understand that the least the Alliance can do is to give definite attention to working women trying to obtain for them a real welfare since in spite of the laws that are said to protect them the working women continue to get a lower salary than men under equal circumstances, that is for the same quantity and quality of work. In public positions no value is given to her steadiness, her capacity, her scrupulousness in the fulfillment of her duty, which can be proved at any time. One has but to see the way they "plant" them in the least remunerative positions without promoting them as they are entitled by law.

Which is the maximum effort the Alliance must realize?

We must work with tenacity to secure the passage of laws giving women full legal capacities, civil and political rights equal to those enjoyed in our country by male citizens. We must work to realize this purpose with nobility and clarity of procedure showing such good sense and solid moral preparation for the exercise of the duties to which we aspire that the Congress of the Republic will be obliged, in order to maintain its high honor, to respond in an effective way to the clamor of feminine public opinion.

Mrs. Havemeyer's Vivid Interest in Art

By Edith De Terey

(*Reprinted from the New York Times, February* 3, 1929.)

YEARS ago when my husband, at that time director of the Museum of Fine Arts in Budapest, returned from America he gave me a long report on all the collections he had visited. There were many on the list. I listened with deep interest, but it was only when he spoke of a certain extraordinary lady that I really became absorbed.

She was a collector, he said, who had followed her own vital instincts, who was always willing to learn more, who was daring and fearless in her judgment. Moreover, together with a girl friend, who was a painter, a pupil of a man called Degas, she was a militant suffragette. Then the old lady was young and in the course of time, even in Europe, she became an important figure in the art-world —maybe the first of just the type to come from these shores.

One day she entered Monsieur Vollard's gallery in Paris. "I am Mrs. Havemeyer," she said, "and would like to see your Cézannes."

Vollard, who at that time was the sole proud owner of Cézanne's pictures (having bought up his entire studio), asked the lady to be seated. He left her to continue a conversation with an artist. Half an hour elapsed. The young lady rose and said she had not much time left. Monsieur Vollard asked her to remain seated and resumed his conversation with the artist. Another half hour passed, and then Mrs. Havemeyer said that in an hour her boat was due to sail.

Vollard politely answered: "Madame, I am certain that you could take another boat."

She did. She remained to see the works of that "revolutionary" Cézanne.

LAST winter I met Mrs. Havemeyer, in her large, dark house on Fifth Avenue, decorated by Tiffany, some forty years ago, it represented more the spirit of her generation than she herself did. Murmuring fountains in Moorish basins, floors of mosaics, staircase railings encrusted with mother-of-pearl, lighting fixtures of many-colored glass—an almost bizarre setting for the famous collection of paintings. My hostess was herself so simple. Her white hair was combed in a fashion of earlier days. Her deep, rather masculine voice was full of friendliness. The closely observing eyes bespoke a still abundant interest in life.

While she was showing me her pictures Herr Meier-Graefe, the well-known European critic, joined us. Presently he took out a small notebook and began taking notes. Manifestly Meier-Graefe was startled when suddenly Mrs. Havemeyer demanded: "What are you doing?" She smilingly added: "Please put that book into your pocket. I don't want anybody to write about my collection."

Guiding us through the rooms she related numerous episodes. When a young girl in Paris she first came in contact with the Impressionists through her school friend, Mary Cassatt. With her Christmas money she purchased pictures that in those days had not begun to fetch in high prices. Once she and her sister, the present Mrs. Samuel Peter, considering what they should do with their pocket-money, decided to spend it on clothes. Before they left for the dressmakers', however, Mary Cassatt told them it would be much better to buy a picture from a poor artist. The sisters followed her advice and received a touching letter from Degas, who at that time was in financial need. Having lost hope of being appreciated by the public, he had about determined to give up painting. Selling a picture revived his courage.

Mr. Havemeyer, after their marriage, became interested in collecting, too. But being of Puritan descent he expressed objection to the nude, on account of his growing daughters. So Mrs. Havemeyer compromised by hanging the nudes in the seclusion of her own bedroom. One day at luncheon she mentioned that in the morning she had done a little shopping. Her purchase had been Manet's "Toreador" — that pale Spaniard, with black whiskers and broad red sash. This extraordinary painting was subsequently placed in a house that contained besides Greco's "Great Inquisitor," in full figure; "The Balcony" by Goya, several ponderous Courbets, Daumier's "Third Class." The wonderful collection came in time to number dozens of Manets with their romantic women and affectionate cavaliers, so vividly reminiscent of the Second Empire. Then they were the delightful ballerinas by Degas.

ON the day of my visit to her home Mrs. Havemeyer, after two hours, evinced no sign of fatigue. On the contrary, her enthusiasm proved cumulative. In connection with her gift of the precious Whistlers to the Smithsonian Institution, she told the following charming story of the days when she was a student in London. Whistler was already famous, yet she found the courage to ask him if he would sell her some of his drawings for £60. The master replied by asking her

to visit him. He allowed her to choose seven drawings, which he offered to bring, framed, to her house.

On the appointed evening Whistler did not arrive until after 11 o'clock. Her mother had retired. He was astonished and apologetic, but got into such a deep conversation with the young student that her governess fell asleep and, waking up eventually, realized to her dismay that is was 2 o'clock in the morning.

Mrs. Havemeyer could easily forget about time. When I took my leave of her upon the occasion to which I have referred, she looked just as fresh as when I had arrived, hours earlier. The vitality that brought forth Impressionism was hers also. And it is patent that continual association with the vital pictures of her collection proved a constant source of spiritual refreshment.

Press Comment

The Havemeyer Bequest

Christian Science Monitor, January 22, 1929.

THE Metropolitan Museum of Art, in formally accepting the late Mrs. Henry O. Havemeyer's magnificent bequest of her famous art collection, pronounces this collection of ancient and modern art a "monument to the exquisite taste of Mr. and Mrs. Havemeyer," and lauds the donor's long and friendly association with this New York institution. The Metropolitan Museum, at the same time, urges the building of a new wing to house this important bequest, and it is scarcely conceivable that adequate funds will not be speedily forthcoming, since the Havemeyer collection now puts the Metropolitan Museum in the front rank as far as the impressionistic school of painting is concerned, to say nothing of its possessing the Havemeyer Rembrandts and El Grecos.

This handsome benefaction to the public of New York City brings to light the courageous stand of Mrs. Havemeyer in collecting the works of the impressionists at a time when they had practically no monetary value and when the artists themselves were in need of such active patronage. Mrs. Havemeyer was fortunate in having a guide of remarkable foresight and sensibility to sustain her in her collecting in the person of Mary Cassatt, the distinguished American painter, so long resident in Paris and so conspicuous in this particular group; for at that period Renoir and Manet and Monet were considered beyond the artistic pale. Even Mrs. Havemeyer's personal friends were so outraged by the examples of Degas' art that she was obliged to hide them away in closets for many years until a change in popular feeling took place.

This latest translation of a notable art collection from a private possession to a public benefaction provides a valuable lesson in the manner of supporting the art of one's own epoch, and in the willingness to trust the artist's vision beyond the immediate degree of popular acceptance in blazing new paths in the constantly widening field of art. Apart from the almost inevitable rise in value of such wise investments, there is the twofold reward in serving one's fellow beings as timely purchaser and also as future benefactor. When the Havemeyer bequest is finally opened to the public in its new home, it may confidently be expected to serve as a powerful impetus toward courageous art collecting as well as a monument to the donor's "exquisite taste."

New Position of Women in Russia

Montclair Times, Montclair, N. J., January 19, 1929.

BASING his facts on first-hand information obtained on a recent tour of Europe and Asia, Maurice Hindus lectured before the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair Wednesday afternoon, taking for his subject, "Asia Aflame."

"I cannot resist the temptation of saying just a few words about Russia, which I visited last summer," said Mr. Hindus. "One of the outstanding things about Russia now, the most cheering and most hopeful, is the rise of the Russian women. I have always regarded the Russian woman as an unusually heroic figure, and some things which you encounter in Russia nowadays almost sweep you off your feet, as regards the new position of women.

"It is amazing what prominent positions the women in Russia are occupying everywhere. When I think of the rise of Russian women, I always regain courage, hope, cheer, and faith in the future of Russia."

Equality of Sex

Evening Bulletin, Philadelphia, Pa., January 24, 1929.

THE officials of the Women's Bureau of the Department of Commerce are favorable on principle to minimum wage laws for women. They consider that while it has not been possible under the operations of the laws to give every woman worker a proper standard of living, only a very small proportion of workers having, in any case, been affected by this legislation, it has nevertheless worked as improvement in conditions.

But they confess that the movement behind such regulation is at a standstill. The bureau says that "it is apparent that today many States have finished their experiment in setting minimum rates for adult women." Between 1912 and 1927 fifteen States, the District of Columbia and Porto Rico passed such laws. In some cases they have been declared unconstitutional; in others the bureau complains there has been constant pressure influencing the way in which the powers and duties conferred and imposed by the statutes have been carried out.

It is probable that the courts, and certain that popular opinion, have been largely influenced in the view of such legislation as affected by the new status of women under national enfranchisement. Armed with the ballot, woman has seemed to many to have adequate power to protect her own economic interests without the need of special legislation. There has also been the belief, held in most radical form by the Woman's Party, that such laws place women at a disadvantage in the competition for jobs. There is little doubt that the increasing presence of women in the general wage-earning field has bred opposition — more freely expressed than before, when there was certain recognition of the *place aux dames*—to their statutory privileges.

Government regulation of business and private concerns is fundamentally repugnant to Americans. They assent to it only when its necessity seems clearly shown. They are not yet convinced as to the need of minimum wage laws for women, although they readily conceive the need of some other forms of special labor and social legislation for their benefit.

Women in Industry

Washington Post, Washington, D. C., February 3, 1929.

WHEN the nineteenth amendment to the Constitution became effective in 1920 it was thought that the cry for "Equal Rights" from ardent Feminists would become a matter of history. But after having had the voting privilege for nine years the women—that is, part of them—are pleading for economic "equality" by amendment of the Constitution.

The most recent campaign for "Equal Rights" reached a climax Friday before a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee in a hearing on the Curtis resolution providing for the amendment. Women are hampered and not helped by laws regulating their participation in industry, argued the representatives of the National Woman's Party, which is leading in the movement. But the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor was

on hand with equally ardent arguments against the proposed amendment, on the ground that it would "work injustice on working women."

Both sides claim the support of President-elect Hoover. The feminine protectionists were supported by the National League of Women Voters, Secretary Davis of the Department of Labor, the American Federation of Labor, and a score of other national women's organizations. This group seemed to have the better of argument at the hearing, but it may have been because of superior numbers, or because they had the weight of tradition on their side.

But the advocates of "Equal Rights" are not to be so easily overcome. They insist that the constantly increasing number of women in industry makes it necessary that regulations be based on conditions within an industry, and not on sex. Women complained that they had been thown out of railroad positions and other occupations because of State laws prohibiting women from working at night. The out-and-out "Equal Rights" advocates scoff at the protection which legislation has provided for women in industry, and declare they are quite capable of taking care of themselves under all conditions of competition.

The United States is usually considered one of the foremost nations in granting privileges to women. But this country still falls behind Poland in the matter of sending women to war. Lieut. Zofja Nowosielska, who served in the Polish army during the World War, disguised as a man, told an American audience recently that about 1,500 were at the front in combat service, and that 2,500 women were enlisted in auxiliary forces. Poland still has a voluntary force of women trained as fighting troops. This should not escape the attention of the "Equal Rights" advocates.

Wage Laws for Women Lose Ground

New York Sun, February 6, 1929.

A DARK future for humanitarian laws setting minimum wages for women in industry is foreseen by the Women's Bureau of the Labor Department, which has completed a study of such legislation during the last fifteen years.

Though seventeen States placed a legal ban on inadequate wages for women, these laws have not only been "nullified in several States by the attacks upon them," but are subject elsewhere to "constant pressure" which has weakened their effect, the bureau's report stated.

"It is apparent that today many States have finished their experiment in setting minimum rates for adult women," it said.

American experiments in regulating wages for women were patterned, with modifications, after the laws of Australia and New Zealand, it was pointed out.

But in those countries minimum wage laws were applicable to men as well as women in certain industries. In America the laws have affected only women and minor children.

Interest in minimum wage laws increased about 1909, following a Government survey of "the condition of women and child wage earners in the United States, which disclosed shockingly low wages for these workers."

Massachusetts passed in 1912 the first law fixing a minimum for wages of women. It was followed by similar laws in California, Colorado, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Arizona, Arkansas, Kansas, North Dakota, Porto Rico, South Dakota, Texas and the District of Columbia, the Women's Bureau said.

None of these laws sought to establish more than "a living wage," the report said. Some of these States set a definite amount as a minimum, which could be changed only by amending the law. Others set up commissions to shift wages to correspond with economic changes.

Despite the disfavor with which these laws are now regarded in their States, the bureau said, it still believes the commissions have made a remarkable record.

"If they have been unable to set rates that would give every woman a proper standard of living, they certainly have improved conditions," the report stated.

Feminist Notes

Canadian Women and the Senate

FIVE Canadian women have referred to the British Privy Council their case, lost in the Supreme Court of Canada, for an interpretation of the North American Act to permit the appointment of women to the Canadian Senate. The question is, "Does the word 'persons' in Section 24 of the British North American Act, 1867, include female persons?" The Canadian courts held that women were not eligible for appointment to the Senate because, in alluding to eligible persons, the act uses the pronoun "he."

Woman Markets Texas Wheat Crop

GRACE WEBSTER, secretary and treasurer of the Texas Wheat Growers' Association, handled millions of bushels of wheat—which meant millions of dollars — following the harvest of this crop.

Her direction of the co-operative marketing enterprise was so successful that the farmers belonging to the association placed in her hands this winter an additional responsibility. They decided to let her market their coarse grains as well as wheat. Miss Webster's age is in the early thirties.

Women Lead in Sports

MORE women students than men participate in athletics at Brigham Young University. This is despite the fact that the institution has men's teams entered in several sports in the Rocky Mountain conference, and the women students engage almost exclusively in intramural contests.

The women's sports include hockey, in which some 150 of them are contestants during the fall months, tennis, fencing, horseback riding and archery, besides half a dozen other branches of athletics.

Three Girls Run Farm

WITHOUT masculine aid the three Austin sisters, Violet, Lily and May, all of whom are under 19 years old, have plowed, cultivated, planted and harvested the crop on a 100-acre tract which they are paying for near Turlock, California. Their harvest has included 200 tons of melons, 150 tons of grapes and lesser quantities of fruits and vegetables.

Besides the cultivating and irrigating the three sisters have milked forty cows twice a day, cared for ten horses, pitched hay, raised thirty acres of alfalfa, raised chickens and turkeys, and done such chores as repairing windmill and fences.

The three young women took complete charge of the ranch when their father was incapacitated for work because of an injury.

Denies Vote to Women

THE Hungarian Government is opposed to extending suffrage to women.

"I have too high an admiration for women to throw them into the maelstrom of politics," declared Bela von Szitovsky, Minister of the Interior, in justifying the Government's attitude in the Chamber of Deputies recently.

"I do not favor the enfranchisement of women because it is foreign to Hungarian ideals," he said, adding that he had a high opinion of Hungarian women, but he felt they were best fitted for home life and not for participation in parliamentary duties.

Wins Over Many Men

A YOUNG woman fresh from Cambridge University has walked away with the important administrative position of assistant principal at the ministry of transport, leaving many male competitors a long way down the line.

She is Nancy Proctor-Gregg, the first woman transport chief that Britain has ever had.

Her duties as assistant principal are being divided between light, railways and electricity, in which departments she has already won marked approbation for ability and grasp of detail.

Drives Taxi

DORA JACKSON of Seaford, Delaware, who recently completed a year's service as a taxi driver, is believed to be the only woman taxi driver in the State, and probably on the Delmarva Peninsula. She reports that during the year she has never missed a call for taxi hire, or never missed getting a passenger to train on time, or any appointment her passenger or passengers may have had.

Notwithstanding she has driven thousands of miles at all hours of the day and night, she reports that she has never experienced the slightest accident of any description. She is recognized among the traveling public as an experienced and careful driver. Mrs. Jackson is the mother of two children, Gwendolin, aged ten, and Brenon, aged eight. Her husband, Huey W. Jackson, is a cartoonist of much ability.

News from the Field

Massachusetts Active

MRS. STEPHEN PELL of New York, member of the National Council, addressed the Executive Board of the Massachusetts Branch of the National Woman's Party at the home of Alice Movius, Massachusetts chairman, 223 Beacon street, Boston, on January 16.

Alma Lutz of Boston has been elected secretary of the Massachusetts Branch, succeeding Lillah Bearse Gray. Miss Lutz, a Vassar graduate, is the author of the book "Emma Willard, Daughter of Democracy," to be brought out by Houghton-Miffin Company in May.

A. Marguerite Smith, also a Vassar alumna, has been elected a member of the Massachusetts State Committee.

A meeting of the State Committee was held on February 12.

Miss Lutz writes to National Headquarters that it was most helpful to have Mrs. Pell attend the meeting of the committee and to hear from her what is being done by the Woman's Party in New York.

Locals to Be Organized

MRS. GEORGE W. METCALF of Kansas City has recently been elected chairman of the Missouri State Branch of the National Woman's Party. Mrs. Metcalf has been actively connected with the Council of Clubs in Kansas City. Under her direction the Missouri Branch is planning the organization of a number of local branches throughout the State. Mrs. John C. Glenn of Kansas City is secretary of the State Branch.

The Kansas City Branch of the Woman's Party, which has always been one of the most active branches of the organization, is making an extensive campaign for Equal Rights this winter under its newly-elected chairman, Mrs. Philip Hahn.

A Brilliant Recruit

MME. GANNA WALSKA has joined the National Woman's Party as a life member and will go on a deputation to Albany, New York, on February 20 to address the Legislature on Equal Rights measures.

"It shocks me to see the same slavery here as American women say they find in Paris," said Mme. Walska to a representative of the New York *World* recently.

"I am now a life member of your National Woman's Party and I am to go and speak for them in Albany before what you call the Legislature. It is better that women should influence men openly instead of the way we do in France. In France women get their own way by being dependent, but that is something American women do not realize."

The members of the Woman's Party rejoice at the addition of so brilliant and spirited a recruit.

Wage Earners Demand Equal Rights

WOMEN wage earners who are members of the New York State Branch, National Woman's Party, arrived in Albany last week to ask support of the restaurant bill, one of four proposed laws sponsored this year by the Woman's Party. The restaurant bill, which has been introduced in the Assembly by Edmund Jenks and will be sponsored in the Senate by Leigh Kirkland of the labor and industry committee, provides for the exemption of waitresses in restaurants from the provisions of the labor law which now forces them to "knock off" work between the hours of 10 P. M. and 6 A. M.

Adeline Pate, an employe of Schrafft's restaurant, New York City, is among the women workers on Capitol Hill protesting against restrictive legislation. Miss Pate, in an interview, declared that she has lost her job a number of times because she was forced by the night work law to quit at 10 o'clock at night, while men are allowed to work after that hour. Employers naturally prefer to engage men, she said, because their hours are not limited.

Women writers and reporters in newspaper offices secured exemption from the provisions of the night work law, Miss Pate pointed out, and also women printers, monotypists and women railroad workers. In 1928 women licensed pharmacists were exempted from the same law, Miss Pate declared, and the restaurant workers whom she represents are now seeking the same exemption in order that they may not be handicapped in earning their living.

Mrs. Lieber E. Whittic of Syracuse, State chairman of the National Woman's Party, headed the delegation at the capitol. The Feminists were met at the Union Station by an Albany group, including Emily Grace Kay Long of Albany, vice-chairman of the State body; Emma Morey, president of the Albany Mothers' Club; Mrs. Alexander M. McEwan, and other Albany members of the Party. The out-of-town women were honored with a dinner in the private dining-room of the Albany Y. W. C. A. The restaurant bill, it is expected, will have a hearing February 21, the day following the hearing on the jury bill. Also on February 20 there will be hearings on the domicile bill, and the equal guardianship bill, which completes the legislative program this year of the New York Branch of the National Woman's Party.

Industrial Equality on the Air

ON March 10, 17, 24 and 31, all Sundays, at 4 P. M., there will be one-half hour speeches over Station WEVD in New York City on special labor laws for women. On two of the Sundays members of the Women's Trade League will speak, and Mary Murray and Maude Williams of the Industrial Council of the National Woman's Party on the other two Sundays. On either the first or second Sunday in April Jane Norman Smith, chairman of the National Council of the National Woman's Party, will debate at that hour with a Women's Trade Union League speaker.

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Printers
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BALTIMORE, MD.